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A CIVIC
CAMPAIGN

The Massachusetts Civic League has opened a campaign for the improvement of housing conditions. Such a campaign, it maintains, is necessary in every city and town, though in most places will be found those who will say their place has no problem. In the interest of this campaign a little leaflet has been issued which outlines method of organization and lines of work to be developed. Under the subdivision "maintenance" the following excellent advice is given: 1. Ascertain what are the present powers in regard to the maintenance of buildings. 2. Learn the method of enforcing these powers and how fully they are enforced. 3. If they are not properly enforced, ascertain the cause. 4. When the causes of improper maintenance are discovered, set to work to remove them. 5. Learn what new powers are needed in order to enable the local authorities to meet all conditions and emergencies. 6. Then begin and work backwards, so to speak. Establish a standard below which no room may be occupied and get the board of health to vacate all rooms or houses so occupied. The means chiefly advocated is the education of the people. In the way of education the Civic League offers the use of literature contained in its library in its so-called "Town Room," and conferences through a representative with local communities. The League's Town Room is in itself a unique institution—an attic library, spacious, convenient, picturesque and inviting, set in the heart of the city and yet removed from its noise and general turmoil. There books on civic improvement may be consulted at pleasure by any one who is interested and help secured in the working out of difficult special problems.

PRIZES FOR
SMALL HOUSE
DESIGNS

In an effort to secure better architecture in small houses the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York has instituted a competition and offered prizes for the best designs for houses of two classes:

one containing four rooms and bath and costing not more than \$2,500, and the other containing eight rooms and costing not over \$4,500. Both are to have a cellar, and walls either of concrete blocks or terra cotta and are to be finished with cement stucco, or, in the case of concrete blocks, with bush hammered face. For the best designs for the smaller houses three prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 are offered, and for those of the large houses \$150, \$100, and \$75 will be given. An honorable mention carries with it a \$20 award. The competition will close December 1st, and after the awards are made models of the winning designs will be constructed and placed on exhibition in the permanent building exhibit at the rooms of the Association, 34 West 33d Street, New York. The jury of award consists of William A. Boring, Donn Barber and Grosvenor Atterbury, all of whom are architects of high standing. As has been said of a similar competition abroad the idea of the promoters of this project is not to secure "freak houses," but to discover what the best architectural ability and skill can do toward the solution of the problem of houses at sums within the reach of people of moderate means—houses which shall do more than serve as shelter.

THE BALTI-
MORE PLAN

In January, 1906, the Municipal Act Society of Baltimore and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association jointly employed John M. Carrere, Arnold W. Brunner and Frederick Law Olmsted to make a plan for the development of the city proper such as that secured some years previously for the acquisition of parks. In November, 1909, a partial report was rendered and now within the past few weeks this with other data has been published in book form. Mr. Brunner's address before the mayor and other city officers is printed in full and dealing with the subject of city planning in general is of more than local import. "I shall not speak," he said, "of the City Beautiful—I dislike the term—The City Sensible is what

Mr. Carrere, Mr. Olmsted and I are here to advocate. The principles of city planning are based upon common sense and upon a study of the traffic conditions and real estate values. Considerations of beauty come later." Subsequently, however, he declared beauty to be a commercial asset. "Civic Art pays and pays well, not alone in making healthier and better citizens, but in absolute dollars and cents." Chester in England was cited as an example of this—a city made prosperous by the fact that its beauty had become known. Paris was naturally given as an example and so also were Cleveland and Grand Rapids in America, the movements in both of these newer cities toward the establishment of a high standard of civic art being briefly reviewed. Mr. Carrere's address, which is also given in full, was more specific, being chiefly explanatory of the proposed Baltimore plan, but likewise suggestive and significant. The discussion which followed, in which Mr. Marburg, president, and Mr. Pennington, secretary, of the Municipal Art Society took part is also illuminating. Certain maps are reproduced as illustrations together with the prospective in color of the proposed Civic Center and boulevard. In every respect this "Partial Report" is admirably set forth and no less interesting in substance than form.

INTERNATIONAL
EXPOSITION AT
BUENOS AIRES

The United States section of the Exposicion de Arts del Centenario, in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, opened with a reception and private view on July 11th, and closed on September 1st. It occupied two of the largest galleries in the center of the building and comprised 120 paintings, representing 117 painters, and 41 bronzes, representing 21 sculptors. The largest sections of the exposition were the French and Italian sections, in which most of the leading artists of these countries were represented. Other countries exhibiting were Spain, which gave one entire gallery to the painter Zuloaga;

Germany, Holland, Great Britain, Sweden, Belgium, Uruguay, Chile, and Argentine Republic. There was also a general international section the feature of which was a group of ultra-modern and very colorful paintings by the Spaniard Anglada. Much interest was shown in the American section and official appreciation was testified by the award, by the international jury, of two Grand Prizes, eleven gold, twenty-three silver, eighteen bronze medals and four honorable mentions to American artists. The grand prizes were awarded to Charles Grafly and William M. Chase.

TOWN
PLANNING
CONFERENCE The International Town
Planning Conference
held in London, Eng-
land, from October

10th to 16th was the most important meeting for the discussion and interchange of ideas on this subject which has yet been held. The galleries of Burlington House were given for the exhibition of drawings and models bearing upon this most important topic. Thirty-two of the great water color drawings made by Guérin, Campbell and others, illustrating the future development of Washington City, were sent to this exhibition as well as a collection of seventeen drawings of the proposed improvements in New York, including the remarkable drawings by Burdette Long, together with illustrations of the proposed development of Saint Paul, Minnesota, and of the great Chicago scheme. This exhibition should give the old world an inkling toward what ideals America is striving. The papers presented at this conference were arranged in five groups, the first having to do with cities of the past, the second with cities of the present, the third with city development and extension, the fourth with cities of the future, and the fifth with special subjects. Two Americans were among the speakers, Charles Mulford Robinson, of Rochester, who presented a paper on Cities of the Present, and Daniel H. Burnham, of Chicago, who dealt with Cities of the Future. It is interesting to know that the proceed-